

## **Unified Health Communication:**

Addressing Health Literacy, Cultural Competency, and Limited English Proficiency





## Module 1—Introduction to Health Communication

The key points to take away from this module are:

- To address health communication effectively, you should use a Unified Health Communication approach. This means being aware of your patients'
  - Level of health literacy
  - Culture
  - Language skills
- Poor health communication contributes to:
  - Malpractice lawsuits
  - Limited patient participation in clinical research
- Effective health communication contributes to:
  - Increased patient use of preventive health services
  - Positive health outcomes
  - Patients following provider instructions
  - Lower rates of anxiety, pain, and psychological distress in patients
  - Increased trust between patients and providers